REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 22, 2008, claims 1-25 are pending of which claim 7 is objected to and claims 1-25 are rejected. The Examiner objects to claim 7 for informalities. The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beninga et al. (DE 19522897), rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0109247) and rejects claims 5, 11, 17 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Barthel et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,081,586).

With this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 23 and 24. No claim is added or cancelled. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Regarding the objection to claim 7, the Examiner states two steps labeled (d) are recited. Applicant herein amends claim 7 to change the labels of the last two steps from (d) and (e) to (e) and (f) as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests withdraw of the objection to claim 7.

In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicant has amended claim 1 to describe "a controller responsive to the output signal of the movement-distance sensor and configured to compute a *relative* distance that the second adjustable component is to move on the basis of the distance moved by the first adjustable component." By using a movement-distance sensor for generating an output signal indicative of the distance that the first adjustable component moves and a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move, additional position sensors are not required. (See ¶ 0002 of the present specification).

Neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move. Instead, Beninga et al. discloses moving adjusting devices 7 to 11 to placing positions after a user adjusts a first adjusting device 6. (See ¶ 11 of an English translation of the description of Beninga generated by

the European Patent Office:) That is, instead of a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the adjusting devices 7 to 11 are to move, the controller 15 in Beninga et al. outputs the positions to which the adjusting devices 7 to 11 are moved. As a result, Beninga et al. requires position sensors for each devices 7 to 11 to determine when the devices 7 to 11 are at their placing positions (see ¶ 10 of the translation), while the automatic driving position adjustment system as described in claim 1 does not require additional sensors to detect absolute positions. Therefore, Beninga et al. does not teach or suggest a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move.

Similarly, Wang discloses a rearview mirror system 10 including left- and right-hand rearview mirror systems 16 and 18 with mirrors 20 and 22, respectively. The system 10 can automatically adjust the position of the RH mirror 22 as a result of changing the position of the LH mirror 20. However, a central controller 50 calculates the necessary adjusted position of the RH mirror. (Col. 4, ll. 27-28). In a more detailed explanation, Wang discloses calculating the RH mirror 22 horizontal angle β at which the mirror 22 is positioned following adjustment, not an angle that the RH mirror 22 moves. Further, in order to determine when the RH mirror is properly positioned, the RH mirror 22 includes a set of position sensors 52 (col. 4, ll. 31-35), while the automatic driving position adjustment system as described in claim 1 does not require additional sensors to detect absolute positions. While Wang does disclose "distance data," the distance data comprises data regarding positions of the mirrors relative to vehicle geometry, not a distance that the passenger mirror is to move. (See, e.g., Summary of the Invention). As a result, Wang does not teach or suggest a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move.

Since neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants further submit that neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests the additional features in claim 3 wherein the controller is configured to compute the relative distance by multiplying a prescribed coefficient based on statistical body dimensions by the

distance that the first adjustable component has moved. While Beninga et al. considers adjusting devices 7 to 11 for a user whose figure does not deviate much from a statistical average (see ¶ 12 of the translation), Beninga et al. does not disclose how the statistical average figure is used to adjust the devices 7 to 11. That is, Beninga et al. does not disclose multiplying a prescribed coefficient based on statistical body dimensions by the distance that the first adjustable component has moved. Additionally, Wang does not consider statistical body dimensions at all. Instead, the horizontal angle β at which the RH mirror 22 is positioned is based entirely on various measurements between the mirrors 20 and 22 and the vehicle. (See equation (4) of Wang.) Therefore, claim 3 is allowable over Beninga et al. and Wang for these reasons in addition to its dependency from claim 1.

Applicant has also amended claim 7 to describe "a movement-distance sensor operatively coupled to the first motor and adapted to output a signal *commensurate with* the distance that the first motor moves the first adjustable component in response to the operator-actuated signal" and "a controller responsive to the output signal of the movement-distance sensor, the controller configured to compute a *relative* distance that the second adjustable component is to move on the basis of the distance moved by the first adjustable component."

Neither Beninga et al. nor Wang discloses a movement-distance center adapted to output a signal commensurate with the distance that the first motor moves the first adjustable component. Instead, Beninga et al. discloses a position sensor 17 (¶ 10 of the translation) that outputs a signal corresponding to a position of the first adjusting device 6 (¶ 11 of the translation). Likewise, Wang discloses position sensors 52 for monitoring the angular position of the RH mirror 22. (Col. 3, ll. 31-33). Since both Beninga et al. and Wang disclose position sensors that only output detected positions, neither reference discloses a movement-distance sensor as described in claim 7.

Additionally, neither Beninga et al. nor Wang discloses a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second component is to move. As explained above with respect to claim 1, the controller 15 in Beninga et al. outputs the positions to which the adjusting devices 7 to 11 are moved, and Wang discloses calculating the RH mirror 22 horizontal angle β

at which the mirror 22 is positioned following adjustment. Since both Beninga et al. and Wang disclose calculating a position following adjustment, neither reference discloses a controller configured to compute a *relative* distance as described in claim 7.

Since neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests the controller as described in claim 7, claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant further submits that neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests the additional features in claim 9, which describes the controller being configured to compute the relative distance by multiplying a prescribed coefficient based on statistical body dimensions by the distance that the first adjustable component has moved. As described above with respect to claim 3, neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests this feature. Therefore, in addition to its dependency from claim 7, claim 9 is allowable.

Applicant has also amended claim 13 to describe "control means for computing the relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move on the basis of the distance moved by the first adjustable component." As explained above with respect to claim 1, neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests the controller configured to compute a relative distance that a second adjustable component is to move. Therefore, claim 13 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant further submits that neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests the additional features in claim 15, namely the control means being configured to compute the relative distance by multiplying a prescribed coefficient based on statistical body dimensions by the distance moved by the first adjustable component. As described above with respect to claim 3, neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests this feature. Therefore, in addition to its dependency from claim 13, claim 15 is allowable.

Applicant has also amended claim 19 to describe "computing the relative distance that the second adjustable component is to undergo on the basis of the detected amount of adjustment of the first adjustable component." As explained above with respect to claim 1, neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests computing a relative distance that a second adjustable component is to move. Therefore, claim 19 and its dependent claims are allowable

over the cited references.

Applicant further submits that neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests the additional features in claim 23, which describes multiplying a prescribed coefficient based on statistical body dimensions by the distance moved by the first adjustable component. As described above with respect to claim 3, neither Beninga et al. nor Wang teaches or suggests this feature. Therefore, in addition to its dependency from claim 19, claim 23 is allowable for these reasons.

Regarding the rejections of claims 5, 11, 17 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Wang in view of Barthel et al., as explained above in respect to claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, Wang fails to disclose each of a controller configured to compute a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move as described in claims 1 and 7, a movement-distance sensor as described in claim 7, control means for computing a relative distance that the second adjustable component is to move as described in claim 13, and computing the relative distance of adjustment that the second adjustable component is to undergo as described in claim 19. Barthel et al. also fails to teach these features. Therefore, the combination of Wang and Barthel et al. fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, all the features described in any of claims 5, 11, 17 and 25. As a result, claims 5, 11, 17 and 25 are allowable over the cited references.

It is submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the Application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the Application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the Application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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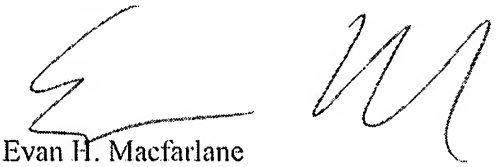

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